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Wind deployment in the United States: States, resources, policy, and discourse

Author(s): Wilson EJ, Stephens JC

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Abstract:

A transformation in the way the United States produces and uses energy is needed to achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets for climate change mitigation. Wind power is an important low-carbon technology and the most rapidly growing renewable energy technology in the U.S. Despite recent advances in wind deployment, significant state-by-state variation in wind power distribution cannot be explained solely by wind resource patterns nor by state policy. Other factors embedded within the state-level socio-political context also contribute to wind deployment patterns. We explore this socio-political context in four U.S. states by integrating multiple research methods. Through comparative state-level analysis of the energy system, energy policy, and public discourse as represented in the media, we examine variation in the context for wind deployment in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, and Texas. Our results demonstrate that these states have different patterns of wind deployment, are engaged in different debates about wind power, and appear to frame the risks and benefits of wind power in different ways. This comparative assessment highlights the complex variation of the state-level socio-political context and contributes depth to our understanding of energy technology deployment processes, decision-making, and outcomes.

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Resource Description

Exposure: M

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature: M

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: M

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Impact: M

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

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Health Outcome Unspecified

Mitigation/Adaptation: **№**

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Model/Methodology: **™**

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic

Resource Type: **☑**

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion, Research Article

Timescale: **™**

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified